

Libraries of Constantinople

Open to Antiquarians for the First Time—Many Rare and Valuable Manuscripts Will Probably be Unearthed

London, March 17 (Correspondence of The Associated Press).—Antiquarians and historians are now to have for the first time since the Turks took possession of Constantinople the opportunity for making a thorough investigation of the literary treasures stored away in the great libraries there.

The contents of the bookshelves of the St. Sophia and Palace libraries are known, but in the cellars under the Palace library there are many manuscripts in Arabic, Greek, Latin and Eastern languages. These manuscripts are in hopeless confusion and no person with special aptitude for research work has been permitted to examine them in recent years. About thirty years ago a German dragoman obtained permission from the Sultan to spend a week in those cellars. In that time he was able to make only a very superficial examination of the manuscripts, but his search, short as it was, revealed many books in Greek and Arabic of great value. Among the discoveries he reported were the lost books of Livy, the great Roman historian.

Among celebrated British scholars who are planning to go to Constantinople to delve among the long-hidden manuscripts is Sir Edwin Pears, the historian, who has spent many years in Constantinople. Sir Edwin told the Associated Press correspondent that at least six months would be required for the investigation. He does not think the libraries have been damaged by the Turks, who, he says, are utterly indifferent to their value. His only fear is that the manuscripts will be found in a sad state as a result of neglect.

The fine libraries of the Byzantine Empire were taken by the Turks in 1453. The greatest number of books are deposited, not in St. Sophia's, as popularly believed, but in the Imperial Palace about a quarter of a mile from the church. Under Turkish rule these libraries were added to from time to time, the most notable acquisition resulting from the defeat by the Turks of the King of Hungary, whose collection of books was brought to Constantinople and placed either in St. Sophia or the Palace library.

"The shelves of the Palace library," said Sir Edwin, "have been constantly picked over and the most important manuscripts probably have been stolen or destroyed. At present, what is shown to visitors is a room about 30 feet long and 15 wide, nicely fitted up with glass cases containing books with well-polished bindings. But there is not a book displayed which an archeologist would consider worth having. The cellars, however, contain hundreds of manuscripts which have never yet been satisfactorily examined."

"The library in St. Sophia's also contains many unclassified works and it may be that they include manuscripts of importance."

The greatest finds of manuscripts made in the vicinity of Constantinople during the last half-century were not in the Palace or St. Sophia libraries but in local libraries belonging to the Greek church. One of these, which Sir Edwin terms the most important theological find of the century, was a book containing the teachings of the Twelve Apostles, a document frequently quoted in the early centuries of Christian literature. The last half of the text had been copied and preserved, but the complete copy was lost until about 40 years ago.

"At that time," Sir Edwin said, "the grand old scholar, Bishop Briennius of Nicomedia, the modern Ismid one of the few Greek scholars who not only knows Greek well but is an authority on paleography, was looking for the epistles of St. Clement."

"In the library of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Constantinople he came across a small volume entitled simply 'Saint Clement.' It contained not only the epistles of St. Clement, but the teachings of the Twelve Apostles, lost since about 1050. Some authorities date the book as early as 70 some as late as 120."

"Another book of equal value was discovered in the library of St. Sophia in about 1875, called 'The Manuscript of Critobolus.' This is the only record we possess containing an account, from the Greek side, of the siege of Constantinople. I was the first to take advantage of this find in my writing of the siege. The book unearthed by Critobolus was a life of Mohammed. It revealed how the Greeks turned Romans to save their skins."

Another library which Sir Edwin plans to explore is at Mt. Athos, a peninsula devoted to the Greek church since 1100. It is situated between Constantinople and Saloniki. About fifteen years ago a Greek made some interesting discoveries there. Sir Edwin visited it shortly after the discovery of the teachings of the Apostles, and learned from the librarian that none of the books were properly classified.

St. Athos escaped molestation by the Turks. The only time the library was violated was in 1824 when a large number of manuscripts were cut up for haversacks for Turkish soldiers. Monks only live there, nothing feminine being allowed on the place, not even hens, cows or mares.

Y. M. C. A. CANTEENS.

Only Soft Drinks to Be Furnished Hereafter.

Paris, March 19.—"Wet canteens to be run by the Young Men's Christian Association," says a headline in the Stars and Stripes but the "wetness" spoken of would not offend the advocates of bone dry prohibition for it only includes chocolate, coffee and ice cream and sodas.

The paper announced that after April 1, the army would run the canteen service for itself but the drinks would be supplied by the Young Men's Christian Association.

Greek Refugees in Saloniki

Many Hundreds Driven from Their Homes by The Bulgars and the Turks take Refuge Here

Saloniki, March 9 (Correspondence of The Associated Press).—High up on the hills of this bustling Macedonian city is a picturesque settlement where 3,000 Greek refugees, driven from Asia Minor by the massacres of 1914, make their homes. Hundreds of other Greeks who were interned by the Bulgarians in Dobruja during the war have joined them recently. The houses in this refugee camp were constructed by the Greek government. A space equivalent to a large New York furnished room is allotted to a family of from five to eight.

The settlement has been given the pretentious name of "The Quarter of the Triumvirate" in honor of Greece's three great modern patriots—Premier Venizelos, Admiral Kouniouriotis and General Danglakis, who, repudiating King Constantine, espoused the cause of the allies when Germany sought to win over the Greek army. Many of the people have been helped by the American Red Cross and speak gratefully of the United States and its people.

As the Associated Press correspondent was visiting the village, two ox-carts loaded with Greek refugees who had been driven by the Turks from the villages along the Sea of Marmora in 1913 and 1914 and who during the present war were expelled from Macedonia by the Bulgars, made their way slowly up steep mountain road. The refugees had just come from Dobruja, to the south of Rumania, where they were practically exiled by the Bulgars. They had been nearly two months on the way, and virtually all the food and aid they got came from the American Red Cross, which has relief posts along the line leading from Bulgaria into Macedonia. Many were little tots from one to five years old. The wonder was how these little ones, sickly and undernourished, were able to survive the long trip by train, motor-truck and ox-cart.

The faces of these returning refugees were an inexpressible sad and harassed look. For five years they were driven hither and yon by Turk and Bulgar and had never known what it was during that time to have a roof and shelter. Under the Bulgars they were forced to live in the open fields or in dugouts or stables. Eighteen hours a day at hard labor under constant intimidation, was the lot of some of them. Three-fifths of a pound of black bread a day was the pitiful recompense they received from the Bulgars. Often those too weak to work were beaten by their ruthless masters.

One refugee declared to the correspondent that at one time there were more than 60 deaths a day among the refugee colony in Dobruja from mal-nutrition, exhaustion and exposure. In certain sections, he said, the Greeks were forced to live largely on the rinds of watermelons which the Bulgarian soldiers threw in the streets.

The older residents of this refugee "suburb" of Saloniki, most of whom had fled from different parts of Asia Minor during the wholesale massacres there in 1914, have bitter experiences to relate about their treatment by the Turks. Some of these people lived in the city of Phocis, where the whole Christian population either had been driven out or were killed by the Turks. The women wept as they told about the outrages of the Moslems. The worst story was that told by an intelligent peasant woman, who declared that in a butcher-shop opposite her home in Phocis, she saw the Turks take a young girl who was considered the most attractive in town and cut her body into pieces. They hung the pieces on meat hooks and offered them for public sale, she said, to show the Turks contempt for Greek Christians.

What most impresses the eye of the visitor in speaking with these unfortunate people is their sad, wan and furrowed faces. They have been driven about by the invading foe until they have reached the point almost of despair and distraction.

Profiteering in England

Coal Mining Corporations Made Enormous Profits

London, March 18 (Correspondence of The Associated Press).—Testimony concerning enormous profits made by various British collieries was given at the inquiry of the Coal Mines Commission by Albert Emil Davies, general manager of the Banking Corporation and a writer on finance and economics. He stated that 1,000 lbs. invested in 1903 in shares, then quoted at par, of a certain company would have earned dividends equal to about 3,800 lbs. and would now be salable at 5,500 lbs.

In the case of another company he said that "for the ten years ended in 1918 the dividends paid were equivalent to about 243 per cent of the increased capital, or over 300 per cent on the actual capital."

The witness said that in most cases the extent of profits in coal had been obscured by the capitalization of reserves or other readjustments of capital.

"By the methods and by dividends," he testified, "the most successful companies are able to return to their shareholders every few years the whole of the share capital originally absorbed by them."

Mr. Davies said that if the coal resources of the country were pooled, the enormous profits made and partially concealed by the large companies would be available to meet part, at least, of any additional working costs that might be necessary, and that the incentive to build up reserves for subsequent distribution, which obscured the enormous profits actually being made, would disappear.

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Morale of German Army Low

Many Cases of Robbery Reported. Commissioned Officers also Guilty of Thefts

Coblenz, March 19.—Information from occupied German territory reaching American intelligence officers of the Army of Occupation is to the effect that the morale of old German regiments now in their depots in various parts of Germany is exceedingly low. Almost every newspaper from the smaller towns on the other side of the bridgehead where troops are garrisoned report one or more cases of robbery of the battalion funds and theft of army horses or other evidences of dishonesty. Reports indicate that the thefts are by soldiers themselves due to the low morale among the troops. Several cases of stealing by temporary commissioned officers have also been reported.

At a recent meeting of the Soldiers' Council of the Fourth German corps at Maderburg it was charged that a corps fund of 58,000 marks, originally paid in commissions from civilians to whom the corps farmed out Belgian civilians, had decreased to 25,000 marks and that the difference had gone to staff officers, under guise of reimbursement for expenses.

Supported by Secret Societies

Korean Revolutionists Have Backing of Millions of Chinese.

Peking, March 13 (Correspondence of The Associated Press).—Several secret societies whose numbers aggregate millions of persons are supporting the independence movement in Korea. It is understood. Notable among them are the Progressive Party and the Heaven Worshipers which together have a membership of more than 2,000,000 persons. Others are the New Korean Society and the Light Restoring Society. Sixty thousand students of nearly all educational institutions, including government schools, participated in the movement. It is stated that the insurrection was supported also by Christian and Buddhist bodies.

The Buddhists in Korea number about one million. They have 2,000 temples and 100,000 priests. The Japanese have attempted to use Buddhism to strengthen their position in Korea, sending many young priests to Japan to be educated. Nevertheless, many Buddhists are believed to have been closely connected with the insurrection.

Christianity has made rapid progress in Korea for thirty years. Two large missionary bodies are working there. The American Methodist Mission has 150 churches and 100,000 followers, while the American Presbyterian Mission has 2,000 churches and about 200,000 adherents. The Korean Christians are mostly men of character and have received higher education.

The demonstrations in favor of independence which began in nearly all towns and villages throughout Korea on March 1, were at first orderly and limited to the delivery of speeches and distribution of copies of manifestos. Later the movement took a distinctly revolutionary character and this resulted in clashes with the Japanese authorities and in casualties on both sides.

Salvation Army Huts

Minister to Comfort of American Soldiers in Paris and Many Other Places

Paris, March 19 (Correspondence of The Associated Press).—To give the American soldiers a center where they can both lodge and spend their time profitably throughout the day, the Salvation Army has just opened its first "hut" in Paris proper. It is situated on the Rue Clignancourt, and was formerly the barracks of the 16th French infantry regiment. The "hut" accommodates 3,000 men.

Several welfare organizations which operate among the American soldiers, including the Young Men's Christian Association, Salvation Army, Jewish Welfare League, Knights of Columbus and the American Library Association have combined to offer the boys here both instruction and entertainment. Doughnuts, pies, flapjacks and cookies "as mother makes them" are provided for all comers. Athletic meetings alternate with singing and lectures, and there is much interest in a course of fencing bouts, which has just started.

Similar institutions are being opened at the big seaports such as Brest, Bordeaux and St. Nazaire, where the American authorities have placed 25 hangars at the disposal of the Salvation Army.

To minister to the comforts of lonely American units in the devastated districts of Belgium and northern France, where the accommodation is one of the most primitive description and where social centers are few and far between, Colonel William A. McIntyre, of New York, has organized a system of traveling kitchens where the men will be able to obtain well-cooked food and eat it in comfort instead of in a haphazard fashion on the doorstep of some half-finished dwelling house, as is now the rule rather than the exception.

Property Confiscated

Petrograd, March 20 (Via Wireless to London).—The Commission for Combating Epidemics has decided to assign 2,000,000 rubles for the purchase of underclothing. By decree of the soviet of the People's Commissaries of Ukraine, the right of inheritance of property exceeding 10,000 rubles is abolished. Such property after the death of the owners, becomes the property of the Ukrainian Soviet Republic.

New Fighting Machine

France Has Fast Bi-Plane Ready For Service. Can Maintain Speed of 131 Miles per Hour

Paris, March 24.—France's fastest airplane today is the new Nieuport bi-plane No. 29, which was completed in the late fall of 1918, and was to have been incorporated as a fighting unit in the French air forces this month. This biplane carries a 300 horse-power engine and, with a load of 340 lbs. reached at the official tests, a speed of 147 1-2 miles an hour. It climbed 1,000 meters in 116 seconds, 2,000 in 397 seconds and 6,000 meters in 1126 seconds. At the latter elevation a speed of 131 miles an hour was maintained.

Belgian Memorial Services

Memory of Victims of German Frightfulness To Be Honored

Brussels, March 17 (Correspondence).—It is planned to hold a combined memorial service for the numerous civilians, men, women and children, who, in no less dramatic circumstances than Edith Cavell, were shot by the Germans in Belgium during the occupation.

It is intended to arrange a huge funeral procession of carriages, each representing a town or village where civilians were massacred. The carriages will be covered with the Belgian flag and escorted by the defenders of the Yser, and each will be preceded by a list of the names of the victims.

At the same time the bodies of the most prominent among the dead will be transferred to a special mausoleum on the Place des Martyrs, where the victims of the revolution of 1830-31 lie.

All the official bodies in Belgium and, it is expected, King Albert will take part in the procession, which will pass through the main streets of the capital.

English Hospitality to American Soldiers

London, March 15 (Correspondence of The Associated Press).—The American Officers' Club in London will be closed in April, marking the end of purely British collective hospitality extended to American forces in England. Many Americans who have been stationed in England say that the British people have gone much farther in their efforts to make them contented and comfortable than they could have expected and are carrying home with them pleasant memories of their stay here.

The Officers' Club here probably was the most notable achievement of hospitality. When American officers began to arrive in large numbers there was difficulty in providing club arrangements. War activities at London had resulted in clubs being overtaxed with British newcomers. At the suggestion of Sir Harry Britain, who had spent several months in the United States in 1915, the Pilgrims organization of which he is president undertook to provide a club.

The palatial house of Lord Leconfield had been obtained and the club was organized. It was popular from the day it opened and through it American officers were given the opportunity to become acquainted with English people.

In entertaining Americans in their homes Londoners did not confine themselves to men they had met at the officers' club. Almost daily, American army and navy headquarters received requests that they designate a few men for teas, dances or dinners.

A committee of the Ministry of Information devoted itself to entertaining Americans for several months. The National Sporting Club was free to Americans in uniform every Wednesday. Vice Admiral Sims and General Biddle, the American commanders, frequently attended. Theatrical managers arranged performances every Sunday night at the Palace theatre for Americans in uniform. Theatre tickets to many London attractions were free to any American soldier for the asking at any time and hundreds of men took advantage of this hospitality.

This committee also sent entertainers to hospitals where American wounded were receiving treatment and it provided theatrical attractions at other English cities where Americans were stationed.

Horse Meat For Europe

Americans do not Take Kindly to this Article of Food

Pierre, S. D., April 21.—A corporation to dispose of light animals to European dealers in horse meat has been formed by South Dakota horse breeders.

For many years light horses have been of little value to South Dakota ranchers. The plan is said to have been discussed at Washington as one means of providing the poorer classes in continental Europe with meat. Those behind the corporation say the American market has shown little interest in the horse meat.

Pastry in France

Removal of War Time Restrictions Improves Fare

Paris, March 15.—War-time restrictions on the making of pastry have been removed and American soldiers here are enjoying numerous delicacies of the French cuisine. At one of the restaurants frequented by Americans the French cook produced several lemon pies but the supply was soon exhausted.

Before the embargo on pastry was lifted, the American soldiers had to obtain flour from the army commissary, and then find a French woman to make it into pastry. Now the French cooks bake a free hand.

Red Cross in Montenegro

Government Grateful for Assistance Given. Four Relief Stations Established

Cettinje, Montenegro, March 18.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press).—This little Balkan country has been tasting the benefits of American Red Cross Relief work. Major Edwin G. Dexter, of New York, and a staff of forty-five assistants, including physicians and nurses, have been feeding the poor, caring for the sick and instituting American sanitary methods for several weeks. The results have evoked warm expressions of thanks from the government. Relief stations have been established at Cattaro, Podgoritz, Nitshitz and Cetinje, and several hundred tons of supplies have already been distributed to the needy and to the hospitals.

The American and Red Cross flags which fly from the Red Cross Mission's warehouse in this ancient and picturesque city have excited wide interest among the Montenegrins. The members of the mission have been made the guests of the Montenegrin government.

Another Triumph for Suffragists

Women Admitted to Practice Law in England

London, March 18 (Correspondence of The Associated Press).—The House of Lords having passed the second reading of Lord Buckmaster's bill letting down the bars of the legal profession to women, the indications are that the measure will become a law during the present parliamentary session.

One by one, as a veteran observer of the struggle for women's rights points out, all the old sex barriers are tumbling down. It was strange, he says, to hear government's blessing of this bill pronounced by the Lord Chancellor who, as Sir F. E. Smith, was one of the chief opponents of woman suffrage when he was a member of the House of Commons.

The work performed by the women during the war, the Lord Chancellor explained, in vindicating former opposition, had profoundly altered matters. "I may say," he continued, "that under changed circumstances of time the government welcomes this proposal, and that it is their hope that they may be able to give it such assistance as will render its passing into law highly probable."

The bill confers upon women the right of qualifying either as solicitors or barristers. It does not extend, however, to Scotland or Ireland.

Knights of Columbus

Headquarters in Coblenz Doing Great Work For Soldiers

Coblenz, Germany, March 20 (By Mail).—Since the beginning of American occupation of Germany the Knights of Columbus force has steadily grown until today at Coblenz there is an independent headquarters of the organization with its own complete equipment. The operations beyond the Rhine are under the immediate direction of Fred V. Milan of Minneapolis. He has under his control a force of over 100 secretaries. This quota would be much larger were it possible to obtain men for the work. So great has been the need of labor that German civilians in large number are employed in the warehouse and about the clubs in lesser capacity.

The entire operation of the Army of Occupation is directed from headquarters in Coblenz. The city is therefore a leave area and daily over 3,000 soldiers have enjoyed the liberty of the city. These men come from the far districts of the army, from Treves and the camps situated far up the Rhine or the Moselle. It is a mighty army that the American service organizations must make as comfortable as their means will permit while they await the word to start for home.

The men come from the outlying camps in the big fleet of river boats plying the Rhine and Moselle rivers. They are met by men of the Knights of Columbus and from their arrival in Coblenz or Treves, the second leave center of the area, they are urged to make the headquarters and club of the organization their homes.

At Coblenz the visiting soldiers are billeted in a huge structure formerly known as the Floriant Magazine and there is room for 1,200 men every night. In this big warehouse nearly 20,000 doughnuts are fried on some days. The entire output of each day is sent to a given soldier unit in the occupied district. At their destination these delicacies are distributed by the head of the Knights of Columbus secretaries in each club house.

In Coblenz, before the war there was maintained one of the finest municipal baths in all Germany. The big structure now is in the hands of the Knights of Columbus who are providing every modern bath, needle, shower, tub, medicated or just a plain old fashioned sponge and rub, for over 300 soldiers every hour.

At the enlisted men's club there are eight large rooms where every want of the soldier is supplied. There is also an officers' club nearby.

Across the Moselle from Coblenz is a large American garrison, the soldiers of which are not permitted to cross the river. Four club houses have been established at that post for the enlisted men and a large club has recently been opened for officers.

London, April 23.—The rioting at Hamburg affected the unloading of an American food ship for a time, according to official reports received here, but the work is proceeding this morning with voluntary strike breakers composed mostly of merchant and men of the professional classes.

Price of Wheat Stable

New Director Feels No Apprehension. Big Crop in Demand

New York, April 21.—Despite maintenance of the government guaranteed price in the face of an American wheat crop which will probably break all records, domestic consumers will not pay more for the product during the coming year than the rates currently accepted from foreign buyers. Julius H. Barnes, newly appointed federal wheat director, assured the public in a statement here tonight outlining the policy of his administration.

Mr. Barnes termed unsound any governmental scheme of artificial subsidizing and thought it quite possible with the greater part of Europe looking to America for food and the crop prospects of the allied countries even poorer than last year, that little inroad, except of a temporary nature would be made on the billion dollar fund provided by congress to carry out the farmers' guarantee of \$2.26 a bushel.

However, should there be a surplus production of wheat, he said, the national treasury would be protected as far as possible in making good the difference between the guaranteed and market rates by determination of a world price for the sale of the surplus. At present the world price exceeds the government price. How much of the federal appropriation would be expended, the director stated, would depend on the harvest as would also the government policy in buying and selling portions of the crop. Until facts concerning the 1919 yield were more generally known, he added, no definite plan of operation could be intelligently adopted with the result that the administration was working out a number of other policies.

In relation to federal acquisition of wheat, which he predicted would be carried out on an extensive scale in enforcing the farmers' guaranty, particularly if the world price should be lower than the government basis, effective until June 1, 1920, Mr. Barnes said three plans were under consideration: Direct dealing with the farmers, which would bring the director into contact with 1,000,000 persons; purchasing through the country grain exchanges, which would necessitate keeping 20,000 accounts, and buying through the mills, which would reduce the number of clients to 7,000.

As to the sale of government acquired stocks, the director said that congress, with a clear conception of the difficulties of the coming year, had delegated to the president large powers and discretion, which would be at the service of the wheat administration. The sale policy, he stated, would be decided by factors developing with the season, and the license power would be used, if necessary, to control trade practices so as to secure proper reflection of the guaranteed prices reaching all classes of producers.

Accepting the department of agriculture's estimate of the largest winter crop in history and making allowance for unfavorable weather conditions which had held the spring crop back two weeks, Mr. Barnes predicted that America's 1919 wheat yield would tax to the utmost the country's storage, railroad and shipping facilities. He expected prices within two months—they are now above the government fair price level, owing to the heavy export demand—but saw little chance of a return to the five cent loaf of bread. The cost of flour was only 45 per cent of the cost of bread, he said, and with wages and other factors of manufacture at high levels there was no present likelihood that the price would be cut in two.

Mr. Barnes denied reports that government agencies were urging farmers to cut down their acreage of spring wheat and said he regarded as fortunate in view of food conditions throughout the world, the probability that America would produce this year the greatest crop ever grown. The 1918 harvest—second largest in the nation's history—was consumed or pledged, he stated.

It would be well for Americans to appreciate, Mr. Barnes asserted, that "five ravaging years" had created an unparalleled world food position, which can not be remedied at once.

Bolshevik Atrocities at Perm

Pits Filled with Bodies of Victims—Villagers Terrified. And Without Food

Omsk, Siberia, February 14. (Correspondence of The Associated Press).—A Russian volunteer soldier who took part in the battle of Perm gives the following narrative of what he saw in the village of Kouvine, not far from Perm where he was stationed during the fighting which resulted in the complete defeat of the Bolsheviks.

He was ordered to clean out three cesspools which were filled with the corpses of people who apparently belonged to the intellectual or cultivated class of the community. Many of the bodies bore wounds made with swords. He removed thirty corpses from the first pit, the ages of the victims ranging from 16 to 60 years. There were several women among the victims. All the bodies were naked. There was reason to believe, in the soldier's opinion that many of the people were thrown into the pits still alive and died by slow suffocation and from the effects of their wounds.

The inhabitants of the village were so terrified that they acted like insane persons. When the Siberians came as victors and the town bells rang out, the people jumped for joy, clapping hands and skipping around in circles.

In the neighboring village of Gornozavodsk, situated on a railroad, the people were found to be absolutely without nourishment, and the condition of the children was pitiable to witness.